

On February 17, 2009, television will undergo the biggest change since color was introduced in the 1950s. That's the date on which analog broadcasting will end for full-power TV stations. Currently, most stations are broadcasting in two formats - digital and analog. Those of us with digital television sets are already enjoying the benefits of DTV. Those with the older analog sets are still getting programming as we always have. But that will change on February 17, 2009, when full-power stations will stop broadcasting in analog. After that date, they will only broadcast in digital, so you will have to make some changes if you watch free over-the-air TV broadcasts on an analog TV with an antenna. Although there has been a request to postpone the February 17 deadline, we must prepare in case the date is not postponed.



That doesn't mean you need to get a new television set. Buying a digital TV is just one option. There are low-cost converter boxes to change the digital signal to one that your current analog set can receive. If you currently receive your programming through a satellite or cable provider, ask your provider what equipment you will need, if any, to continue receiving your signals through the transition. For more information on the digital television transition, including information on a government coupon program for converter boxes, go to www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-CALL-FCC.